

~~Top Secret~~

POLAND

Soviet commentary on the Polish crisis is warning that a threatened transport strike might affect Poland's national interests and security.

A TASS dispatch from Warsaw, carried on Radio Moscow's domestic program and in yesterday's *Izvestia*, labeled the two-hour warning rail strike on Monday "proof" that Solidarity wants to maintain a tense situation in Poland. The TASS item also said that the union refuses to cooperate with the official railroad workers' union and is attempting to prevent the latter from receiving funds allocated by the Polish Government for wage increases. The article notes that unnamed sources in Warsaw--presumably at the Soviet Embassy, and among some of the Polish leadership--believe that the mere threat of a general transport strike, threatened by Solidarity, could impact on the country's national interests and defense posture.

The TASS dispatch is the first such commentary that stands on its own, rather than replaying a *Trybuna Ludu* report or material from another Polish source. It is also the first time the Soviets have mentioned Solidarity by name since the Polish Supreme Court registered the organization on 10 November; the comments are totally negative on the new trade unions. Finally, the TASS item is the first in which the Soviets have depicted a specific job action by the Poles as a threat to Polish national security and, implicitly, to Soviet military supply lines running through Poland to East Germany.

The Soviet media's coverage of the recent Sejm session in Warsaw highlighted the remarks of those deputies who spoke of a need to deal with "the enemies of socialism in Poland." While the Sejm called for national unity in dealing with the crisis, the Soviet media portrayed the session as dominated by those who are determined to keep Poland socialist and loyal to the USSR.

Strikes

The railway workers have threatened longer disruptions of traffic unless Deputy Premier Kopec and other government officials meet with them to discuss their demands.

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Kopce said last Friday that he would begin negotiations "immediately" to head off yesterday's strike--his failure to do so probably led Solidarity to strike.

Factory workers at a large tractor plant near Warsaw staged a two-hour sit-in strike yesterday to protest the regime's arrest of a printer for allegedly reproducing a secret document obtained by Solidarity. A Solidarity spokesman predicted a "landslide" of work stoppages because of the arrest and said that various branches of the union have already begun consultations.

Solidarity leader Walesa has yet to comment on yesterday's job actions. He recently has been stressing that Solidarity should concentrate on organizing and arranging elections; he has often emphasized that strikes should be staged only as a last resort. Walesa, however, may be having difficulty in restraining the more militant members of the union leadership.

Problems in Party Continuing

The failure of the party to hold a central committee plenum--scheduled for 10 days ago--is another sign that party leader Kania is having some problems consolidating his hold on power. Kania has replaced many of the provincial party first secretaries, but the new local leaders may not strongly support him. He reportedly is having difficulty finding people he can trust to take other major party posts and is being challenged by Stefan Olszowski, who has become the number two man in the party.

[redacted] reportedly believes that time is not on Kania's side.

[redacted] very pessimistic about the outcome of the power struggle and believes that Olszowski and the members of the old guard will be able to outmaneuver Kania. Another Polish official, an adviser to former party chief Gierek, told [redacted] last week that he expects Olszowski to replace Kania at the party congress some time next year.

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